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## Conservation

### Pledge

I give my  
pledge as an American  
to save and faithfully to  
defend from waste the  
natural resources of  
my country—its soil  
and minerals, its  
forests, waters  
and wildlife

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in the interest of conser-  
vation of Louisiana's nat-  
ural resources by the  
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isiana, 70130.*



Typical of the massive flocks of waterfowl which winter in the Louisiana marshes. The state's hundreds of thousands of marshland acres play host to millions of ducks and geese each winter. Considered one of the most important wintering states for waterfowl in the country, Louisiana also winters the majority of the continent's population of blue and snow geese. More liberalized duck hunting regulations for the 1963-64 hunting season are certain to bring about renewed interest in the traditional sport of waterfowling and accelerate interest in supporting programs aimed at improving both nesting and wintering areas. (Cover photograph by Jack Britt)

# LOUISIANA *Conservationist*

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

JIMMIE H. DAVIS  
Governor



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# Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Hunting Program

(Editor Note)—Louisiana duck and goose hunters wishing to hunt at the Commission-managed waterfowl area at the mouth of the Mississippi River should carefully read the following article.

**Allan B. Ensminger**

WITH THE MORE reasonable regulations established for the 1963-64 waterfowl season duck hunters in Louisiana are showing a renewed interest in the traditional sport of waterfowl hunting.

Waterfowl hunting restrictions during the past two hunting seasons have had a very definite influence upon the sport in the form of a loss of interest by many sportsmen in the entire Mississippi Flyway as well as here in Louisiana. For the first time in recent years waterfowl hunters are able to look forward to a less restrictive season. Reports from field personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission who have been in Canada this past summer indicate that an abundance of ducks were produced.

The 66,000 acre Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area is located at the mouth of the Mississippi River and a very good duck hunting season is anticipated.

The Delta was blessed by another high river stage last spring and this was responsible for the production of some of the most abundant

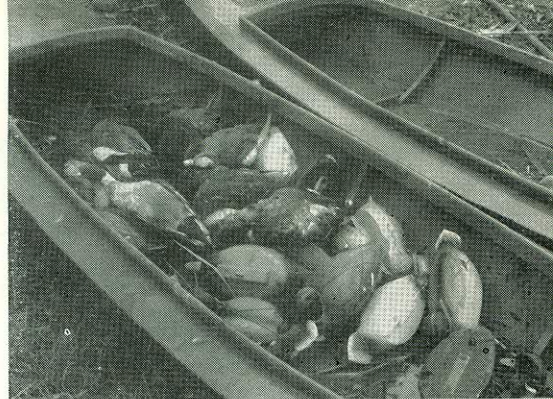
waterfowl food supplies in recent years.

During the 1962-63 hunting season a total of 273 hunters utilized the facilities of the hunting camps and bagged 1,013 ducks.

The public camp hunting program was started in 1954 and it is with great pride that the Commission announces that the program can be made available to the public again this year. Nine hunting camps are available on the area and in general hunting will be continued in the same fashion as last year. Hunts will be held again this year on Tuesday-Wednesday and Saturday-Sunday, with a rest period between hunts so that the ducks will have an opportunity to return to the hunting areas and resume their normal activities. This procedure has greatly benefited the hunters in the past.

Retrievers will be permitted again this year as part of the waterfowl management program. This practice has proved to be a sound conservation measure as well as providing additional enjoyment to the sport of waterfowl hunting.

Those who wish to hunt at Pass-a-Loutre must



Duck boats, decoys and camping equipment are furnished the Pass-a-Loutre hunter by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.



The 66-thousand acre Pass-A-Loutre hunting area, blessed by a high river stage last spring, is rich in waterfowl food and should attract a record number of migratory birds this season.



first submit an application in accordance with the procedures outlined.

The applications will be numbered upon arrival at the office and on designated days each week a selection of the hunters will be made by drawing names. Representatives of various sportsmen's groups will be requested to assist in this drawing. Each group of selected hunters will be picked up by Wild Life and Fisheries Commission boats at Venice on the day prior to their hunting date and will be returned to Venice when the hunt is over.

All hunters must provide their own transportation to Venice, food, bed linens, and hunting gear. Eight men will be assigned to each camp. Ponds in which they are to hunt will be designated. Duck boats and decoys will be provided, as well as all cooking utensils.

One of the nine camps, which is composed of four bedrooms, will be reserved for married couples. Both man and wife must sign application forms.

The schedule for the drawings for each hunt during the season is as follows:

Application Dates	Drawing	Hunting Dates
Nov. 11-18	Nov. 21	Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, Dec. 3 & 4
Nov. 18-25	Nov. 27	Dec. 7 & 8, Dec. 10 & 11
Nov. 25-Dec. 2	Dec. 5	Dec. 14 & 15, 17 & 18
Dec. 2-9	Dec. 12	Dec. 21 & 22
Dec. 9-16	Dec. 19	Dec. 28 & 29, Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Letters must be postmarked between the dates specified in the application period for applicable hunts and received prior to the drawing.

The rules governing the public shooting ground program are as follows:

1. The area will be open to hunters through application: preference in drawing will be given to resident hunters, although any spaces unfilled by residents will be made available to non-resident hunters for the standard set fee.
2. After the drawing and up to one week prior to the hunt, any spaces unfilled may be had by applying in person at the New Orleans office.
3. Transportation from Venice to the hunting

grounds and return will be furnished.

4. Bed, cooking utensils, fuel, stove, drinking water, and lights will be furnished; but no linens, fishing equipment, guns, shells, or food—bring your own.
5. One duck boat, paddles, pushpoles and decoys will be furnished for every two hunters.
6. Camps will be assigned by the supervisor in charge.
7. Duck, goose and coot shooting only will be permitted. Waterfowl retrievers only are permitted on the hunt.
8. All hunting or shooting on the Pass-a-Loutre area is limited to morning hours and must stop by 12:00 o'clock noon. Violation of this provision will result in the immediate expulsion from the area and denial of the privilege of returning to the area in the future.
9. Applicants may apply for the hunts throughout the season, but not more than one application each week.
10. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged each hunter selected for the trip. The full amount must accompany each application. Reimbursement of the full fee will be made if the hunter is not selected.
11. All hunters will be required to sign an agreement releasing the Commission from responsibility for any bodily harm or personal loss and agreeing to pay for any Commission property lost or destroyed.
12. Permits may be transferred from one person to another upon endorsement. No refunds will be made for permits which have been issued.
13. Hunting is restricted to men 16 years or older; if any boy is under 18 years of age, he must be accompanied by his parents or guardian.
14. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the boats or the camps.
15. Valid Louisiana hunting license or overage permit and waterfowl stamp will be required.
16. No boats, motors, or rifles are permitted on the area.
17. Simple camp rules must be observed.

#### HOW TO APPLY

1. Make application direct to Allan B. Ensinger, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

Waterfowlers are urged to bring along their favorite retrievers to the Pass-a-Loutre public shooting area.





2. You may apply in a group not to exceed eight (8) persons, naming each person in the application. Full remittance of fee at \$5.00 per hunter must accompany the application (Send personal check or money order—no cash). Reimbursement in full will be made within three days after the drawing if the hunter or group is not selected.
3. Submit only one application per week; if the name of any person is received in more than one application for the same week, it will be disqualified.
4. Applications for the hunts must be made in advance **THROUGH THE MAILS** and postmarked during the application dates according to the schedule in order to be considered for the drawing.
5. Specify the dates desired, and indicate whether or not the other hunt during the week of your request will be acceptable if your preferred dates are filled.
6. The quota for each hunt will be selected by public drawing in the Refuge Division office, between 10 A. M. and 12 noon, on the designated dates. Decisions of supervisory personnel are final.
7. Permits and specific instructions will be mailed to selected hunters within three days after the drawing.

#### **REDFISH AND BLIND BAY AREA**

##### **Free Permit Hunting**

In addition to the section of Pass-a-Loutre reserved for the public camps, one-third of the 66,000 acre area will be open again this year to those who wish to make a hunt using their personal equipment and facilities. Permission to hunt in this area must be obtained from the Refuge Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and all hunters must provide their own transportation as well as other hunting essentials. Give the name and address of each hunter, and specify the desired dates. Permits must be in possession while hunting here.

##### **Area Boundaries**

Northern boundary, Pass-a-Loutre; western boundary, Jackson Bayou from Pass-a-Loutre to Blind Bay, then along the western shoreline of Blind Bay, across the Southeast Pass to and including the western shoreline of Redfish Bay, numerous small bayous, ponds, lagoons, and the coastal mud flats constitute the portion open to the general public.

All parts of the Pass-a-Loutre public shooting grounds west of the above established boundary line are restricted entirely for the controlled hunting program. In addition to the above defined land the area west of South Pass will be included in the free permit area this season. This area is one of the few spots on the lower delta where hunters may expect to get occasional blue and snow goose shooting.

Regulations for the use of this area have been held to a minimum in the interest of facilitating its use. They are as follows:

1. Hunting must stop at noon of each day. This measure is for the benefit of all hunters us-

ing the entire area and it allows afternoon and night feeding and resting by waterfowl in the entire Pass-a-Loutre area.

2. Daily bag and possession limits must be observed.
3. Hunting will be permitted in this area seven days a week during the entire duck season.
4. Duck, goose and coot shooting only is permitted. Waterfowl retrievers may be used.
5. No rifles are permitted on the area.
6. Hunting must be confined to the designated open area so as not to conflict with the established controlled hunting program.
7. Permits for the use of this designated area will be issued by the Refuge Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, and no hunting will be permitted without the required permit which will be issued free on application.
8. Violation of these regulations will result in the immediate expulsion from the area and denial of the privilege of returning to the areas in the future. \*

## **Airplanes Utilized in Shrimp Research**

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission revealed how the commission's oysters, water bottoms and seafood division has successfully initiated a unique method of sampling in shrimp research, using an airplane.

Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant, chief of that division, tried the new method with marked success and that it will be repeated in future gathering information for shrimp research programs.

St. Amant said that this sampling method would save the commission considerable time and labor, with use of an airplane allowing long stretches of the Louisiana coast to be checked quickly and efficiently.

The division ordinarily takes samples of post-larval (young) shrimp by means of fine mesh nets drawn by small craft. Prior to utilization of commission's planes, this took considerable time to spot check areas along the state's 800-mile meandering coastline.

Under the new method, commission personnel use a seaplane. Highly mobile, the plane can set down in an area to be sampled and pull the test nets by taxiing across the water. Samples are quickly gathered and the results have been most successful.

"Now we do not have to detail research vessels to long trips in estuarine waters to gather information. Use of an airplane allows samples to be gathered from many areas in a matter of hours and they can be taken to the commission's marine laboratory at Grand Terre," St. Amant noted.

In describing the new process of sampling which has been inaugurated by the oysters, water bottoms and seafood division, St. Amant added this was another forward step by the commission to further its shrimp research program in the interest of the people of Louisiana. \*